

IVI-IPO 2007 CHICAGO ALDERMANIC QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE: 12/30/2006
WARD: 43
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NUMBER OF PETITION SIGNATURES FILED: 900+
NUMBER REQUIRED: 118

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Elective or appointive public and/or party offices previously held including dates.

None

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate.

None

Principal business, educational, professional and civic activities of the past ten years.

General Counsel, Engine Group, International Truck and Engine Corporation

Social Action Chair, Chicago Sinai Congregation

Board Member, Facing History and Ourselves

Board Member, National Conference for Community and Justice

Girl Scout Leader, Menominee Club Troop 717

What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

J.D. University of Chicago, 1979

B.A. Political Science magna cum laude SUNY Buffalo 1976

Student Association President

Founder, Western New York Public Interest Research Group

Intern, U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on the Environment

Former Assistant US Attorney, 1981 – 1989

Activities for other candidates. Please be specific.

Volunteer, John Kerry for President (GOTV in Wisconsin)

Volunteer, Al Gore for President (precinct worker)

Volunteer, Nancy Kaszak for Congress (office volunteer)

Volunteer, Mike Quigley for Cook County Commission President (solicited petitions)

Please list all endorsements you have received so far.

- Progressive Democrats of America Chicago chapter
- Former 43rd Ward Alderman Martin Oberman
- Rabbi Michael Sternfield
- Former US Attorney Anton Valukas
- Former US Attorney Scott Lassar

As concisely as possible, state why you feel you should be endorsed over the other candidate(s). What goals for the office you seek are most important to you personally?

I believe that I am the most qualified of the candidates and the candidate most attuned to the desires of the ward. I believe that given the unique combination of my public and private sector experience, I will provide the entire City with the kind of leadership in the City Council for which the 43rd Ward was once

known and admired. We are moving into an era where the Council has an opportunity to become a full and effective partner in government.

I will fight for the residents of our Ward and provide progressive leadership in City Council. I am steadfastly committed to guaranteeing that neighborhood residents will once again have a say in the development in our community, thus ensuring that we do not lose what many of us have worked so hard to achieve—a city neighborhood with the scale and character that makes living in Chicago such a joy.

What is your campaign budget? How much have you raised to date?

\$250,000. I have raised over \$110,000.

How many people are on your campaign staff? How many volunteers are on your list?

There are three people on staff. We have 150+ volunteers on our list.

PRIORITIES

1. a. What employment, other than alderman, if any, do you intend to hold?

None.

b. How will you divide your time between your aldermanic duties and your other occupation?

N/A

c. Please specify the minimum hours per week you will spend performing your aldermanic duties.

As a public servant I believe that an alderman should be on call at all times, to serve the ward and its residents.

2. a. Please describe your service office staffing plan, including the number of staff, full and part time, how you will pay for them and the number of hours per week that your service office will be open.

I will ideally employ a chief of staff, two constituent services specialists, a policy advisor, and a communications/internet specialist. I will pay for the staff out of the allocation for staff in the city budget, which covers three full-time employees. Staff beyond the three allotted from the city's general fund will be paid from campaign finances if they are sufficient. The office will be open regular business hours, five days a week, and one night a week for open office hours for myself. We will also open one weekend day a month. I plan to be as available to my constituents as possible and pledge to use the city allotment and aldermanic allowance responsibly.

b. What services need improvement in your ward? How will you achieve this?

First and foremost, the rat situation needs to be addressed. We will work with the City to develop a comprehensive rat abatement program to roll out across the ward.

Second, communications need to be dramatically improved. We will upgrade our ward's website to permit easy access to neighborhood information about construction so that neighbors can understand what's going on. We will also increase the amount of communication from the ward office to constituents.

3. What are your top priorities for the Ward?

- Institution of a clear policy that decisions affecting land use, traffic, and other matters determining the quality of life in our community will be made only on the basis of what is supported by a consensus of neighborhood residents.
- The development of a strategic land use plan for the ward, particularly considering the impact of the redevelopment of the Children's Memorial Hospital site.
- The development of a Pedestrian Traffic Safety Plan for the ward
- The revitalization of the Clark Street shopping district
- Rat control for the neighborhood

4. How will you solicit and follow citizens' and community groups' recommendations on City matters?

I will use all forms of communication: regular community meetings, mailings, leafleting, and internet to solicit information and opinions on City matters. It is critical to me as a representative of the Ward to act only with the input and recommendations of my constituents.

PLANNING, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT

5. a. How should business and commercial development be balanced with residential development in the ward?

First and foremost, I believe that the residents should control the development that goes on around them. It is the job of the alderman to protect the community from developments that are detrimental, to work to build consensus among all concerned to achieve developments that will benefit the community. Therefore, any new development that requires a change from existing city codes will require that the affected neighbors have a significant voice. In my view, a developer of a new project must convince the neighbors that the proposed development is worthy.

The 43rd Ward has been known and beloved for its charming houses, picturesque Chicago-style 2- and 3- flats, small businesses and owner-operated unique boutiques. I share my neighbors' concerns about the pace and nature of redevelopment in our Ward. Development is necessary and inevitable; it promotes the vitality of neighborhoods in the Ward and moves us forward into the future. However, the development must be reasonable, thoughtfully planned and in keeping with the essential character of the Ward and its long history.

b. How should downtown development be balanced with community development throughout the city?

I think a vibrant downtown is critical to the economic life of the city. I believe we should continue to try to attract businesses to locate in downtown Chicago. Nevertheless, it is essential that the City Council assure that adequate resources and support are supplied to development in all communities so that downtown development does not drain needed resources citywide.

6. a. In what ways will you assist in the positive development of neighborhood business areas?

In my Ward, local businesses have been an attraction for decades. I believe the alderman's office should actively use her voice to encourage landlords to rent to locally-owned businesses. Certain areas of the ward, such as Clark Street between Armitage and Diversey need an active effort by the Alderman working with the local community to develop programs that will encourage neighborhood oriented business to revitalize the area. I am committed to convening such a working relationship immediately to accomplish this end. Other commercial areas, such as Clybourn Ave., are already overburdened with development which has resulted in traffic congestion detrimental to the neighborhood. As Alderman, I will insist on careful scrutiny to insure any future land uses to will not exacerbate this problem.

b. How will you involve ward residents in planning?

Speaking both in the short and long-term, I intend to form a community directed development council made up of representatives from the community, the neighborhood organizations, business organizations, development community and major institutions in the 43rd Ward. One of the goals of the council is to have the alderman and the community respond proactively instead of reactively to issues of development in the ward. The council will survey all the property in the Ward and make recommendations for zoning changes. The council will then create a 43rd Ward Master Plan.

c. What is your long-range plan for the development of the ward?

See above. I support the preservation of the neighborhood look and feel of the 43rd Ward and intend to make our Ward a model for urban planning. The redevelopment of the Children's Memorial site presents our Ward's greatest challenge and must be done in a fashion to enhance our community. In particular, it is essential that the redevelopment of the Children's Memorial site be limited to a density which is consistent with the surrounding neighborhood.

In addition, we have to look closely at the redevelopment of the Finkl's steel site to make sure that any redevelopment makes adequate provision for traffic issues and is consistent with the long term health of both the Ward and the City.

7. How do you intend to handle requests for zoning variances in your ward?

I believe that the current Chicago zoning code, in general, is excellent, and reflects a legislative consensus concerning development. Therefore, in general, I will look at requests for zoning variances skeptically. In all cases, I will insist on local community input on such requests and will vigorously represent the community's position before the Zoning Board.

8. a. What steps should be taken to achieve greater accountability and transparency in determining how TIF funds should be spent?

I think that there should be TIF oversight panels for each TIF that is created. These panels' main function would be to monitor the progress of the TIF and ensure that the TIF is actually benefiting the residents in the area it covers. Chicago's TIF ordinance already authorizes the creation of such panels and we should move aggressively to codify this process.

b. How will you involve residents in planning and approval of future TIF districts?

First, I would like to expand the public hearing portion of the TIF approval process. First, I think that the minutes of the public meetings should be included in the final TIF plan. Second, I think that there should be substantive responses to substantive objections to the creation of a TIF before it moves forward. Second, the best way to get residents involved in the TIF process is to educate residents on the goals, rules and implications of a TIF. Once the residents are educated as to these issues, they can then get involved in a constructive fashion.

c. Do you support terminating a TIF when the objectives of the TIF plan have been accomplished before the 23 year period is over?

The objectives that are laid out in a TIF plan usually function as a roadmap for redevelopment, as such the accomplishing of the goals stated at the outset may not indicate that the true function of a TIF has been achieved, that is revitalization of the neighborhood. More important than the whether the goals are fulfilled before the allotted time, is that there needs to be a process to get developers and companies to give back the public subsidies they have received if they abuse the process.

d. Do you support extending the South Loop TIF? Why or why not?

I need additional information on this subject in order to answer in good faith. I will provide a supplemental answer should that be necessary.

9. How do you propose to replace property tax revenue for CPS and other taxing bodies that is lost to TIF development?

I strongly favor relying on the state wide taxes (primarily the income tax) to fund education to insure equitable distribution of resources for all students. Therefore, I would urge far less reliance on property taxes. If TIF's are properly restricted to be used only when there is a clear showing of a long term gain for the property tax base and if property taxes are relegated to a small portion of education funding, the problem of lost revenue should be kept to a minimum.

10. a. Did you support or would you have supported the Big Box/Living Wage Ordinance?

Yes

b. Why or why not?

As someone with 15 years experience in the Fortune 500, I understand the motivations of business when seeking to expand. I believe that all businesses will naturally attempt to reduce their costs. By paying inadequate wages and by not providing health benefits, the costs of these items are shifted to the taxpayers and to other businesses that do pay better wages and provide

benefits. This is certainly is not fair when applied to the largest employers in the country. We have a health care crisis looming in this country and all sectors should participate in solving it.

c. What changes, if any, would you support if the Ordinance were introduced again?

I believe that the new minimum wage law passed by the General Assembly is a good first step. However, I would seriously consider a city ordinance which expanded the living wage to business beyond just the big box stores.

d. Would you support any kind of municipal living wage ordinance?

I would seriously consider such an ordinance, especially one that includes not only Big Box retailers but other large employers as well.

HOUSING

11. Please comment on the housing problems in your ward.

The main housing problem that exists in my ward stem largely from people being forced out of their homes because of rising property taxes.

12. How will you increase low-income rental housing and home ownership opportunities that would be affordable to those at 15%-30% of AMI?

I would advocate for an expansion of the Low Income Housing Trust Fund program that provides direct subsidies to landlords that provide housing to low income individuals. This program could serve the elderly and low income residents of my ward admirably, while at the same time allowing landlords to choose the tenants they want to reside in their buildings.

13. a. Do you support one-for-one replacement of each unit of demolished subsidized housing, even though Federal law no longer requires it?

Yes. I support one-for-one replacement, and hope that the federal government returns to its commitment to affordable housing throughout the nation.

b. What should be done to provide housing for those families displaced from public housing and not eligible for relocation under the CHA transformation plan?

The CHA needs to invest prudently in social service and relocation counseling for all families affected by the transformation plan. By ensuring that each family receives such counseling, CHA will minimize the number of families that fall through the cracks. In addition, the City of Chicago should move aggressively to utilize the vacant parcels owned by the city to ensure that these people are not left without a place to live. This will supplement the admirable results the City has achieved in securing funding from the Federal and State governments.

c. How should the transformation plan be amended to adequately provide for the needs of low income people with disabilities?

The transformation plan needs to be amended to provide more funding to servicing the needs of low-income people with disabilities. Currently the number of units that adequately serve these people is insufficient and under-funded.

d. What should be done to ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable family sized units available to families in the Section 8 program?

The city has a large amount of vacant parcels throughout the city can be used to create appropriately sized housing for Section 8 families. As I noted earlier, the city should move aggressively to develop these parcels for the benefit of low and middle income families.

e. What should be done to provide affordable housing for low-income individuals and families who are not served by any existing programs?

The best thing that can be done for low-income families that are not served by any existing programs is the implementation of a balanced development ordinance that creates an adequate supply of such housing. Another approach is to work to raise the income level of the city as a whole so that families can move out of poverty.

14. Do you support halfway houses and shelters for the homeless in your ward?

Yes, I support the existing halfway houses and shelters that are located in the ward.

15. a. Do you think Chicago's Tenants' Rights Ordinance is being adequately implemented?

Yes.

b. What changes, if any, should be made?

One positive change that could be made is a revision of the standing requirements to allow community organizations to have standing to sue landlords that are in violation of the Code. This would provide those who cannot secure legal counsel for violations to have their voices heard.

16. a. Do you support an inclusionary zoning ordinance which would require developers to set aside 15% of residential new construction or renovation for the creation of affordable housing?

Yes, I support the Balanced Development Ordinance.

EDUCATION

17. a. How will you work to ease overcrowding and improve the quality of public schools and after school recreational activities?

I intend to make education a priority in my office. I will advocate for funding of additional schools in our area, as well as for the expansion of existing after-school programs available to our families. Further, I will seek alternative strategies through private-public partnerships.

b. How will you work to improve maintenance and rehab of aging schools?

The first step to addressing infrastructural problems such as maintenance and rehab is to raise the level of awareness of the problem, this is something that an alderman's office could do very well. The next step is a complete survey of the possible ways to finance and facilitate the necessary repairs and upgrades.

18. Do you support a city-wide lottery for enrollment in magnet schools?

No.

19. a. What is your assessment of Renaissance 2010 and its implementation in your ward as well as the City as a whole? Please include in your assessment, the role of charter schools as well as the power to reconstitute schools.

In general Renaissance 2010 could be a very powerful laboratory for the exploration of alternative strategies in the creation of viable education in our city. I am on the board of Facing History and Ourselves which works extensively in both traditional and charter schools.

b. At what level of government should decisions be made regarding allocation of Chapter One funds?

Decisions should be made at the local level.

c. How would you change the selection and approval process for the mayor's appointments to the Board of Education?

The major change that I would advocate for is to make the Mayor's selection of board members subject to an advise-and-consent process by the city council.

20. What should the City do to improve the quality of all local schools?

It is important to have all stakeholders- parents, teachers, unions, support staff, local community and business leaders- at the table to discuss the best ways to improve our schools.

21. What are your plans to improve the local schools in your ward?

I plan to convene an Education Advisory Board to recommend ways to improve our local schools. I plan to work closely with the school councils to advocate for the needs of the local schools including encouraging local public-private partnerships for the schools.

ENVIRONMENT

22. As Blue Bag recycling is phased out and replaced with point separation, what steps should be taken to:

a. ensure participation of small businesses and non-profits in the recycling program?

The best way to ensure the participation of small-businesses and non-profits is to incentivize participation in a cost-efficient way for a period of time. This will ease the transition from the Blue Bag Program.

b. identify adequate markets for recycled materials?

The best way to identify new markets is to first assess the profile and amount of recycled materials that is used. One possibility is to sell recycled materials to companies that will process the waste into products useful to industrial applications. Industrial application for recycled material is a growing market where producers are always looking for low-cost, high-durability materials to reduce the production overhead.

23. What should the City do to encourage and implement alternative forms of energy?

Beyond incentivizing local businesses, the city government should set an example to all by going forward with the Mayor's plans for alternative energy forms. This could include wind generator, solar power cells, among other innovative solutions. In addition, the city can also set a leading example by moving to economize energy in many different ways, from more efficient and responsible fuels in city vehicles to using high-efficiency lighting in city facilities.

PARKS

24. a. Do you support increased privatization of facilities and services?

Privatization and contracting out are matters to be handled on a case by case basis, depending on the service or program involved, the overall cost and benefit to the city as a whole, including the cost, the impact on the delivery of services and the impact on the potentially affected employees. Across the board legislation is inappropriate. There should be accountability to the public whenever a public service is rendered.

I oppose privatization that is aimed solely at reducing wages and benefits of the workforce that provides the services.

b. Have the court decrees mandating equal park services in both programs and capital improvements been adequately achieved in your ward?

Lincoln Park has been long-favored and I have been happy to see the parks become more equalized.

c. How have cuts in the park district budget affected parks in your ward?

The parks in my ward are among the best in the city. However, we have seen degradation in maintenance which should be imagined when there are budget constraints.

25. Do you believe Chicago's park system is adequately funded?

I support the master plan for our park system, which is a long range plan.

26. Do you support siting the main/opening Olympic venue in Washington Park?

Washington Park is a landmark park in a city of landmarks. I would consider supporting the siting of the opening venue there, but first I would have to consult the Alderman where the park sits. Further, I would want to make sure that when the Olympics are over that Washington Park would still be a place that an average resident of Chicago could go to and enjoy.

TRANSPORTATION

27. a. What will you do to expand CTA services to more neighborhoods?

The major addition that I would support is the proposed CTA Circle Line, which could potentially bring public transportation to many more people throughout the city and an alternative to car travel through our ward.

b. Is CTA service sufficient in your ward?

The 43rd Ward is well served by the CTA, however bus scheduling could be improved.

c. Should the City increase its subsidy to the CTA?

Transit funding is an important national, state and local priority - we must increase funding from whatever sources are appropriate.

28. In what situations would you support permit parking?

I generally support permit parking in highly congested areas where a majority of the residents need street parking.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

29. a. Is response time adequate in 911 service?

Response time is adequate in the 43rd Ward.

b. Are there inequities in 911 service in your ward? If so, what can be done to redress them?

There are no inequities in 911 service in my ward, however, the inequities that exist elsewhere in the city are unacceptable. Possible ways to solve this issue would be to assess the type and amount of resources assigned to the areas that are having response time issues in order to understand why the lags are taking place.

30. a. Do you support community policing?

Yes. I support community policing.

b. What improvements would you suggest for this program?

The major improvement that I would suggest is that CAPS officers receive more extensive training in problem solving on the job. It is extremely important that officers have a working knowledge of how to solve problems as they occur and before they become unmanageable.

31. Should the City stop paying legal fees and attempt to recover past legal costs of city employees implicated in the Police Board findings of misconduct related to the Burge case?

No. The city was right to pay for the legal fees of its employees. If there is a problem with the City indemnifying employees that are found guilty, then the statute that governs Police Indemnification should be revised to provide for this situation.

32. Please share your views regarding the functioning of the Office of Professional Standards and whether it should operate more independently of the Police Department.

I feel very strongly that any ethics watchdog should operate with complete independence from the entity it is charged with watching. This ensures the objectivity necessary to make the kind of decisions and judgments that are necessitated by that role.

REVENUE AND BUDGET

33. Do you favor a budget ordinance which would require:

a. public questioning of city department heads concerning their departments' specific budget requests?

Yes.

b. budget copies available to the public 30 days in advance of hearings?

Yes, at a minimum.

c. restoring city-wide community group budget hearings several months prior to the publication of the budget, as were held under the Washington and Sawyer administrations?

Yes. The recently instituted city-wide budget hearings were a good beginning at citizens' reinvesting in how their city is governed. Public hearings for meaningful citizen input are a good start and other mechanisms should be devised to enhance this process.

Further, it is important for the Mayor to return to issuing the proposed budget earlier in the year to provide ample time for both aldermen and citizens to analyze it and prepare for meaningful input into the budget process. Finally, I strongly favor the City's making available a useful program budget, in addition to the line item budget, so that it is possible to really understand how much of the budget is actually spent on programs.

34. a. Do you support casino gambling for Chicago?

No. I believe that the burdens on society from legalized gambling far outweigh any claimed fiscal benefit from gambling and otherwise cheapen our world class city.

b. Would you support a citywide referendum before any gambling is instituted in the City?

Yes.

35. What level of city support do you favor for the arts and cultural events?

As a world-class city, I believe that Chicago should be at the forefront of arts and culture. Arts and culture represent the public face of Chicago and can act as an economic driver by increasing tourism and local spending.

36. Do you support:

a. rescinding the recent Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases?

No. However, I do favor instituting a rational and objective process for determining the appropriate salary levels in the future.

b. limiting Mayoral and Aldermanic salary increases to the same percentage as the lowest raise for any class of city employees?

This concept has merit and is worth exploring.

37. Do you support increasing the number of staff positions for aldermanic service offices?

Only based on demonstrable needs. In canvassing the 43rd Ward, non-action, unresponsiveness, the lack of communication and lack of leadership has been some of the most repeated complaints. Of course, this is not necessarily the result of aldermanic office staffing issues, but rather a direct result of the lack of management and leadership in the alderman's office.

CITY COUNCIL

38. a. What reforms are necessary in the City Council's committee structure?

There are far too many committees with far too many unnecessary staff. Committee agendas are not generally available to the public with adequate advance notice and committees often function on a random basis so that there is no way for the public to have adequate time to prepare for hearings on matters of public concern. Committee agendas should contain enough substantive information so that citizens can have useful notice of the committee hearings. The internet should be used to advance this goal.

b. Do you favor keeping the current number of committees?

No. The number of committees should be substantially reduced.

39. a. Do you support a rule requiring the numbering of proposed City ordinances?

Yes. In addition, the Clerk should publish an easily usable index so that citizens can locate pending and passed legislation which affects them.

b. Do you support a rule requiring all city council proceedings to be transcribed verbatim and published by the City Clerk?

Yes.

c. Do you support mandating the Clerk's office to provide copies of pending ordinances to the public upon request?

Yes and they can easily be made available on the internet.

d. Do you support a rule requiring roll call votes?

Roll call votes are not always necessary but any alderman can demand a roll call vote. I intend to exercise that right on all matters of importance.

CIVIL RIGHTS

40. a. Do you support affirmative action based on race, gender and sexual orientation in establishing criteria for hiring and promoting public employees?

Yes. These programs should be designed in accordance with the Constitutional requirements by making concrete findings.

b. Do you support affirmative action as a criterion in letting city contracts?

Yes. The certification process is still quite difficult for legitimate companies, and there has been some abuse of the program. I believe that the process for certification should be streamlined so that legitimate companies can be certified in a timely fashion.

c. Please comment on current women and minority participation in city hiring and contracts. Be sure your comments include firefighter and police officer recruitment and promotion.

I applaud the city's recent efforts to improve recruitment of Firefighters.

41. Do you favor restructuring the wage scale of city employees to institute gender-equal pay for jobs of comparable worth?

This process is complex, but I would support such a measure if it can be accomplished fairly.

42. Do you support requiring all City vendors to provide spousal benefits for same-sex partners of their employees?

Yes, if they are already providing such benefits to spouses.

ETHICS & CAMPAIGNING

43. Do you support patronage in hiring and promoting public employees?

No. I am firmly opposed to patronage and will make it a high priority to work against and bring to a halt the patronage abuses.

44. Do you support the Accountability in Privatization Ordinance?

Yes. I will always support measures that make our city government more transparent, accountable, and accessible to the citizens and tax-payers.

45. In what circumstances should the City contract for outside professional services? Please comment on any existing abuses.

Outside professional services should be considered when city interests require the use of expertise that does not exist in the core competencies of its staff. We should consider the value of hiring outside professional services as opposed to the cost of maintaining such expertise in-house.

46. Would you support contracting for outside services with companies located outside Chicago? Why or why not?

We have to weigh the preference for locally staffed companies against our need to have the most efficient use of taxpayers' dollars. I think that, all things being equal, that Chicago employers should be favored.

47. a. Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who hold other public sector jobs concurrently?

No.

b. Will you employ or have you employed staff in your office who have either outside employment or contracts with entities which do business with the City?

I will not allow full time employees to have outside employment or contracts.

48. Will you or have you accepted campaign donations from current or potential suppliers or employees?

No.

49. Do you support extending all of the provisions of the City Ethics Ordinance to City Council members?

Yes.

50. Do you support expanding the jurisdiction of the City Inspector General to include City Council members?

Yes.

51. Do you support public financing of municipal campaigns? Please explain your position.

Yes. Other cities have successfully experimented with public financing. Public financing insures equal access to the political process to all voters and candidates, regardless of personal wealth or access to wealthy supporters. Under the present system, we are rapidly approaching a politics in which not only poor, but even middle class citizens are effectively excluded from participation in elections, since large campaign budgets have become an effective entrance fee in to the electoral process.

A properly designed public financing system can bring substantial equity to the system.

52. Who are your top 5 contributors and how much has each contributed to your campaign?

1. John Horne \$10,000.00
2. Diane Graham Henry \$5,671.61
3. Ezra Rosenberg \$5,000.00
4. Helen Merrier \$5,000.00
5. Stanton Kessler \$5,000.00

53. Are you supporting any mayoral candidate?

I am not supporting any particular candidate for Mayor, because I believe that I will be able to forge a positive working relationship with whoever is elected as Mayor.